

SENATE BILL 674
By Cooper

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 13,
Chapter 24; Title 13, Chapter 3 and Title 13,
Chapter 7, relative to religious institutions.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 13, Chapter 24, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated part:

§ 13-24-401. Notwithstanding any provision of general law, private act, charter, ordinance, rule or regulation to the contrary, if real property is owned by a religious institution, and if such property is exempt from taxation pursuant to § 67-5-212, and if the religious institution owns outdoor signage located on such property, then such signage shall be subject to the same zoning restrictions and rights as outdoor signage located on the property of similarly situated commercial establishments.

SECTION 2. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to that end the provisions of this act are declared to be severable.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2005, the public welfare requiring it.